

KING'S HALL

1874 - 1972





Extract from a letter, written to the school in 1947, by
Elspeth Laird, who attended King's Hall from 1905-7.

Miss Joll's era began in September 1905 (which is when I first went to K.H.C.) At that time all the teachers came from England, with the exception of the music teacher who was German. The school building was very much smaller in those days and only held 48 girls.

We used to go for daily walks in a "crocodile" in the afternoon and got "partners", at the beginning of the term, for each day of the week. —A very poor system for new girls as one probably got someone who turned out to be quite uncongenial. Fortunately "walks" were done away with the next year.

We hadn't a gym in those days and the first hundred dollars towards one was made at a sale at Tadoussac in the summer of 1906.

We used to play basket-ball out in front of the school, and later we had field hockey at the back.

Most of the rooms on the first floor had four cubicles, made by drawing curtains, and we each had a wash-stand with a jug and basin. On cold days the water used to freeze, sometimes, on the top of our jugs. The only heating was in the passages where there were lovely hot air vents in the floor.

There were of course, no motors in those days, and for "treats" we used to go for drives in huge wagons with a pair of horses. Each wagon held fourteen girls. There were sleighs of the

same type and I remember one upsetting, and everyone, including Miss Joll, being thrown out. Fortunately no one was hurt.

In the two and a half years I was at K.H.C. there was never one case of contagious disease, but the village was nearly always "out of bounds", as Miss Joll was so terrified of our catching anything.

We had quite modern plumbing but not an awful lot of it — three bath-rooms on the first floor and I can't remember what they had upstairs, where there were dormitories for the younger pupils.

Moe's River in those days, was a very pretty little village on the banks of a narrow river. I'm told there is a dam there now. Too bad.

We had a toboggan slide behind the school and an old tumbled down shed which was used as a skating-rink — that is when we had cold enough weather and snow, which was of very short duration usually. We also used to snow-shoe, but I don't remember any skis, though I skied myself before I ever went to Compton.

Are the june-bugs as awful as ever in May? We once had fourteen in one night in our bedroom — I was always terrified of them — still am, but fortunately I hardly ever see one! The choir-boys used to bring them to church in their pockets and let them out during the service to frighten us.



Dedication

The King's Hall Memorial Magazine is affectionately dedicated to Dr. A. E. Gillard, who was principal from 1930 to 1968.

"Clearly the Past in Our Memory Will Shine"

Compton Ladies College was founded in 1874 by the Reverend Joseph Dinzey with the sanction of the Bishop of Quebec because, according to Bishop Williams, there was a need for "a sound education for girls, particularly the daughters of the clergy, at a minimum charge, which would compete with the schools of the Roman Catholic Convents". It should be noted too that the founding of the school was given extensive local support, as it appears that the leading families of Compton required an institution to which they could send their own daughters. The original buildings were erected at a cost of \$16,489.00 and the school opened in September 1874 with six resident and ten day students, each of whom was charged \$175.00 a year for tuition. Mr. Dinzey was the Principal, and his wife, the Lady Principal. The venture appeared at first a popular one, for in 1876, enrollment had risen to forty-five boarders and fifteen day students. A Corporation had been formed which had as its members the Bishop and four gentlemen appointed by the Synod. The school was owned by the Corporation who leased it to Mr. Dinzey who was responsible for its management.

In 1884 financial difficulties forced the school to close for two years, and when it opened again in 1886 the Corporation assumed direct responsibility for its management. The years 1886 to 1901 appear to have been unsettled ones; the school had during that time no fewer than seven Lady Principals, three of whom, the Misses Holland, Tiffaney and Ross, served during 1886, followed by Miss Prime in 1887, Miss Cochrane in 1891, Mrs. Browse in 1895, and Miss Smith in 1901.

The year 1902 was a turning point for the school. The name Compton Ladies College was changed to King's Hall to commemorate the

coronation of Edward VII, and as the result of the work of Mr. Robert Campbell an Act of Incorporation was passed through the Legislature the same year. Until his death in 1929, Mr. Campbell devoted much of his time to the school which was reorganized and re-modelled under his supervision and with his financial support.

A Prospectus from the year 1902 reveals that the aim of King's Hall was "to supply a good and thorough education with sound religious training". This task was given over in 1905 to Miss Laura Joll who remained as Lady Principal until 1928, a period of time which saw King's Hall expand and grow. When Miss Joll assumed the Principalship in 1905, enrollment stood at approximately forty-eight students. During her time of office this figure was to increase in 1916 to seventy-nine girls, in 1921 to ninety-eight girls, and in 1927, a year before her retirement, to one hundred and three. In 1911, the Corporation seriously considered moving King's Hall to a more central location in Coaticook. Such a scheme proved financially impossible and was eventually discarded. Having decided to remain in Compton, the Corporation in 1913 purchased the Dawson farm, adding thereby fifty acres to the school holdings, and in 1919 began extensive additions to the original school building. In that year wings were added to the south and to the east, the latter containing a gym, now the prep. hall, and some classrooms, connected to the main building by a glass passage. In 1922, a wing was added to the north which contained a dining hall. Two years previously in 1920, the Corporation had been offered the assets of the Bacon Institute in East Hatley. The revenue was to be used to give instruction in one or more of the subjects which had been offered at the institute, namely the domestic, agricultural, and industrial sciences. Not until July 1927 did



Compton Ladies' college, November 1900

Courtesy of Quebec Diocesan Gazette

the Corporation accept the Trust's gift, the income from which is still available for the school's use.

In 1928, after twenty-three successful years as Lady Principal, Miss Joll retired, and the leadership of the school was assumed by Miss Tugwell who two years later relinquished her office to Miss Adelaide Gillard, who for the following thirty-eight years held the principalship of the school, guiding it wisely through the depression years when enrollment skipped from one hundred and three girls in 1927 to fifty-one girls in 1932 back to ninety-seven girls in 1939, and on into the fifties and sixties when the school held as many as one hundred and forty-seven

students. Aside from Miss Joll's retirement in 1928, that year saw the founding of the King's Hall Old Girl's Association, an organization which over the years has given much time, energy, and financial support to their school whose aim in 1930 was stated in a "Prospectus" as attempting "to combine a thorough modern education with the closest attention to the health and physical development of each pupil".

Following the Depression years, when enrollment was once again increasing, it was felt that the time was appropriate for expansion and re-modelling. In 1936 The Gagne Farm was purchased, its barn put in working order, with a riding stable being built in it. This venture was

followed in 1937 by a further extension of the east wing of the school to provide for a new gym and swimming pool. The old gym was turned into a prep. hall which remains to this day.

During the thirty year period that followed, relatively little expansion of the physical plant took place. Under Miss Gillard, enrollment rose steadily, and the school carried out its function of preparing girls to write the McGill Matriculation examinations at the end of Grade II. In 1967, however, it was deemed necessary to improve the residential situation at the school by constructing a residence which would provide accommodation for one hundred and sixty students. This building was to be named Gillard House after the Lady Principal who retired with an Honorary Doctorate from Bishop's University in 1968. In that year Miss Dorothy Kidd was appointed Principal, and during her two year term of office carried out extensive administrative and academic re-organization. In 1970 the school's graduating class wrote the Provincial Matriculation Examinations for the first time, as McGill no longer offered its own high school leaving certificates.

In 1970, with Miss Mary Morris as Acting Principal, the first investigations were carried out with a view towards the amalgamation of King's Hall and Bishop's College School and, in May 1971, the Board of Directors of both schools formally announced the amalgamation.

With the retirement of Miss Morris becoming effective in June, Mr. John Cowans, who until that time had been Assistant to the Headmaster at Bishop's, was appointed Director of King's Hall. It was subsequently decided to close King's Hall following the 1971-72 academic year and relocate the remaining students at BCS in new residential facilities on the Lennoxville campus. Under the Headmastership of Mr. Cowans, it is the aim of the combined schools to develop in its students sound values and judgement so that they may be able to cope with the problems and pressures of the day.



King's Hall, approximately 1915



King's Hall, 1957

King's Hall, 1967



Gillard House



Then . . . and Now



How many King's Hall Old Girls remember these croc. walks?





St. James' Church, Compton



The church after 1953

J. McDonald

Compton's "Expansion" Programme





Sports



The Head Girl Shield



E. INNES
1925-26



J. BLACK
1926-27



I. MITCHELL
1927-28



K. SMITH
1928-29



J. GLASSCO
1929-30



B. COCHRANE
1930-31



J. CUMMING
1931-32



K. CRABTREE
1932-33



I. CRESSY
1933-34



C. ROY
1934-35



M. DAVIS
1938-39



A. MARTIN
1941-42



J. RILEY
1942-43



M. BYLES
1943-44



J. DODDS
1944-45



M. BUNBURY
1946-47



B. CHAMBERS
1947-48



A. TRENHOLME
1948-49



M. F. TREMAIN
1949-50



A. McNALLY
1953-54



J. DICK
1954-55



W. JOHNSTON
1954-55



B. KERR
1955-56



J. CUSHING
1956-57



J. MILLAR
1957-58



L. MURRAY
1958-59



A. PALK
1959-60



G. ROWAN-LEGG
1960-61



C. STEWART
1961-62



J. BURGOYNE
1962-63



A. NEWMAN
1963-64



J. BALLOCH
1964-65



S. FLEMING
1965-66



M. S. PHILPOTT
1966-67



K. HARPUR
1967-68



R. HALPERN
1968-69



C. PARKER
1969-70



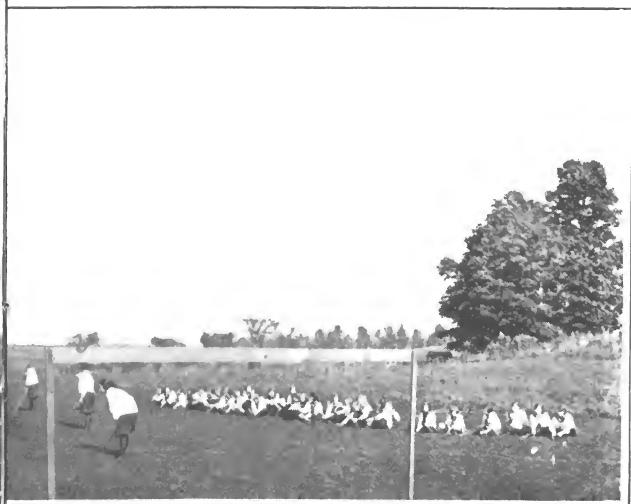
M. LAMBERT
1970-71



R. FOWLER
1971-72

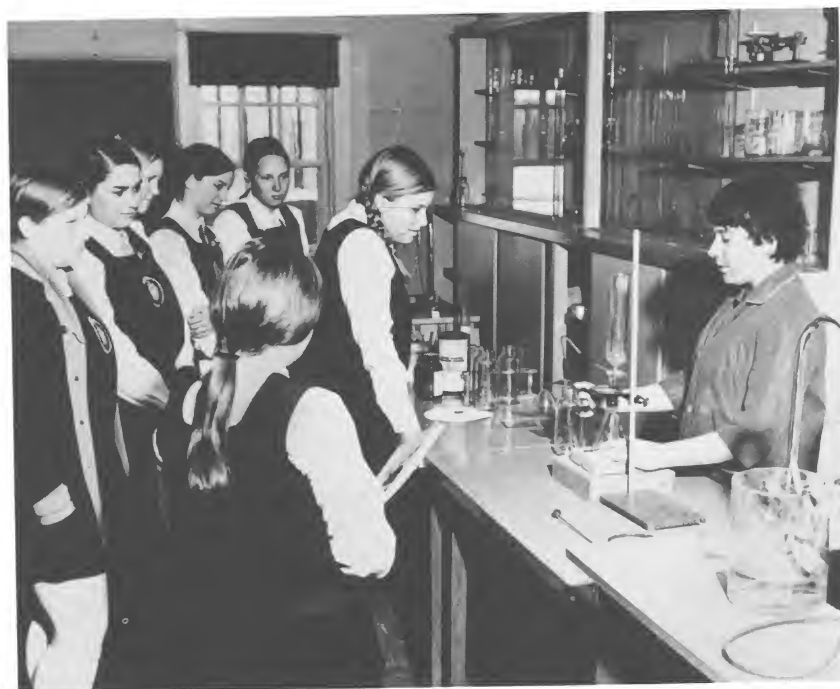
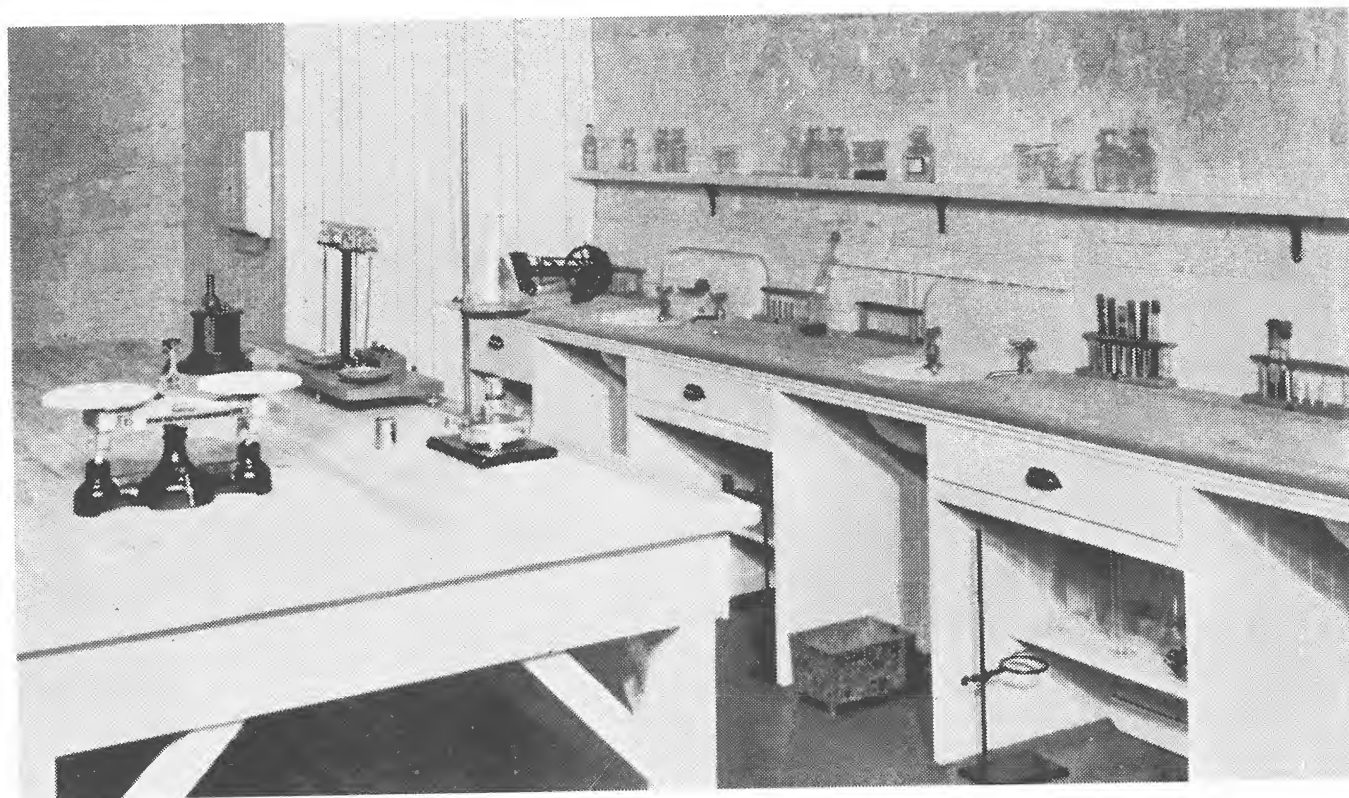
The photographs of the head girls shown above are of those whose names appear on the shield, which was presented in 1926 by Eleanor Innes.















Principals



MISS L. JOLL
1905-1928



MISS J. TUGWELL
1928-1930



DR. A. E. GILLARD
1930-1968



MISS D. J. KIDD
1968-1970



MISS M. S. MORRIS
1970-1971



MR. J. D. COWANS
1971-1972

Photographs unavailable for Mrs. DINZEY, Miss TIFFANEY, Miss HOLLAND, Miss ROSS, Mrs. PRIME, Miss COCHRANE, Mrs. BROWSE and Miss SMITH.

Staff through the years





It's not the game that's lost or won
But lifelong friendships that begun,
Old friends have scattered far and wide
To every land where ebbs the tide.
Happiest memories linger still
Of days at King's Hall on the hill.

MARGUERITE H. STARKE



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THE OLD GIRLS



The varying qualities of the photographs in this book are due to the fact that many of them were taken from previously used engravings and very old photographs. We would like to thank Progressive Publications for their patience, co-operation and guidance.

